

March 18, 2009 - Slaughter Applauds Passage of Service Bill Answering Obama's Call to Action

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Rep. Slaughter Applauds
House Passage of National Service Bill Answering Obama's Call to Civic
Action

GIVE Act Expands
Funding for National Service Programs, Establishes Youth Service Engagement
Programs

Washington, DC
- Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House
Committee on Rules, today applauded House passage of H.R. 1388, the Generations
Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act. This legislation will
launch a new era of civic participation by promoting and funding service opportunities
for Americans, while fueling economic growth in their communities.

"Now more than ever, we must encourage Americans to do their part to invest in their communities to meet unmet needs and to help put us back on the road to recovery," Rep. Slaughter said. "The GIVE Act provides citizens with the resources to have a direct impact on their cities and neighborhoods. Americans have always risen to the occasion to help their fellow citizens in times of crisis -- this is no exception."

The GIVE Act, which is strongly supported by President Obama, was first introduced in 2007. This bipartisan measure not only promotes civic engagement, it also creates programs that are great investments for our communities. For every dollar spent towards service initiatives, there are four dollars of direct measurable economic returns in that community. AmeriCorps, one program strengthened by this bill, is an active presence in Western New York and positively impacts communities across the region. For specific information about the successes of AmeriCorps of Western New York click [here](#).

"I am proud to stand with President Obama and call for a renewed national spirit of public service. This legislation will not only engage our young people, but will go a long way in strengthening communities and the nation," Rep. Slaughter concluded.

BACKGROUND

Following are major provisions of H.R. 1388, the Generations Invigorating Volunteerism and Education (GIVE) Act:

- Raises the number of volunteers nationwide to 250,000, up from 75,000;

- Increases stipends for AmeriCorps volunteers and all recipients of education awards from \$4,725 to \$5,350;

- Initiates a "Summer of Service" program for young people from middle school through high school to spend serving their community, for which they would receive a \$500 stipend for college or for college preparation;

- Creates four new service corps, including a Clean Energy Corps to encourage energy efficiency and conservation measures, an Education Corps to help increase student engagement, achievement and graduation, a Healthy Futures Corps to improve health care access, and a Veterans Service Corps to enhance services for veterans;

- Establishes Youth Engagement Zones, a new service-learning program to help bridge partnerships between community based organizations and schools in high-need, low income communities;

- Expands service opportunities for older Americans and public-private partnerships by creating the Serve America Fellowship and Silver Scholarship and Encore Fellowship to engage social entrepreneurs, boomers and retirees, the private sector and Americans from all generations.

- Establishes the Campuses of Service to support and recognize institutions of higher education with exemplary service-learning programs and assists students in the pursuit of public service careers;

- Includes a Call to Service Campaign to launch a national campaign encouraging all Americans to engage in service and to observe September 11th as a National Day of Service and Remembrance;

- Expands the focus of the National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) to include disaster relief, infrastructure improvement, environmental and energy conservation, and urban and rural development.

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